THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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CITY OF SAN DIEGO IMPROVES WATER QUALITY WITH TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE WHILE LOWERING COSTS

San Diego -- March 26, 2002 - The City of San Diego has improved the low flow diversion system with a state of the art water runoff unit in the Tourmaline beach area. The improvement – Continuous Deflective Separation (CDS) unit – is part of a pilot program to improve upon San Diego's existing low flow diversion system which rings the coastal communities of Mission Bay and Tourmaline. If successful, the CDS unit should lessen maintenance time and lower associated costs, and more importantly, allow the diversion systems to be online collecting pollutants before they reach the beach.

The low flow diversion systems capture dry weather flows that run off our land from various sources. These flows are diverted to the sewage treatment system to be cleaned before being dispersed into the ocean 4.5 miles from the shore, instead of it running untreated directly to the beach. While the current dry weather diversion systems have helped improve our water quality over the last 15 years, they have required frequent maintenance to keep the system clear and unblocked from trash and debris which cause polluted overflows that run onto our beaches contaminating the water. The CDS system is designed to address these issues while saving money.

The CDS unit for the pilot project is located at Tourmaline Surf Park and will only require monthly cleaning instead of daily inspection and maintenance with the existing systems. CDS units are made of durable concrete and stainless steel. Since they have no moving or mechanical parts, maintenance and associated costs are low.

The system enables a natural separation of trash and other pollutants from water by controlling the velocity and flow of urban runoff through the system. The CDS system is an efficient and cost-effective alternative because it's the first non-blocking and non-mechanical system to remove pollutants from the water before it reaches the bay. The units are safe to maintain because they require little manual work, thereby reducing maintenance staff exposure to health risks. If successful after the two month pilot test period, the City will evaluate retrofitting and modifing other diversion structures as money becomes available. The CDS unit at Tourmaline cost $25,000.

"The people of San Diego continue to say that clean beaches and bays should be our number one priority. That's why we must be committed to trying out new technologies that will further our goal of cleaning up the water at our beaches. The addition of the new CDS unit is part of that commitment, " said First District Councilmember Scott Peters.

Councilmember Byron Wear said "I have long advocated the storm drain diversion system because it is an essential tool in improving water quality for our beaches and bays. The system creates a ring of protection

by intercepting pollutants such as urban runoff and sewage overflows, and I support any improvements that further protects our coastal waters .”

The City of San Diego has seven components in the La Jolla system, which consists of five valves and two interceptors. There are an additional 39 valves and 14 interceptors ringing Mission Bay. Design and installation of these systems is overseen by the City of San Diego’s Engineering and Capital Projects Department, Transportation and Drainage Design Division.

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